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15 February 1978
OLC #78-0753

MFR

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Jim Bush on Presentation of the
1979 Agency Budget before the House
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

25X1 1. [] Office of the Comptroller, and I visited Jim Bush, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) staff, at his office at 1:00 p.m. on 15 February to discuss the Agency's budget presentation before the HPSCI this year. During this meeting [] took the opportunity to show Bush where several displays were located in the Congressional Justification Book (CJB), but most of the time was devoted to Bush explaining what he felt Chairman Bill D. Burlison (D., Mo.), Subcommittee on Program and Budget Authorization, was comfortable with in the way of a hearing, and providing examples of what others had done that seemed right.

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2. Bush stressed that Chairman Burlison likes to have an agenda for these hearings which spells out what the topics will be for each time block. This gives him a feeling for the subjects to be covered, allows him to ask for coverage of additional subjects, and gives him a handle on running the hearing. If he has such an agenda, and either witnesses or questioners run over the allotted time, he can shut them off or allow the discussion to continue, depending on the relative importance of the rest of the agenda. Thus he will want to know how the Agency intends to fill the six hours of hearing time set aside for them - who will speak on what subject in what order. In line with this, the Committee wants the prepared testimony three days ahead of the hearing and needs a firm list of all those who will be present a day or so ahead.

3. Bush had high praise for the recent handling of the Consolidated Cryptologic Program (CCP) hearing in which Admiral B. R. Inman, Director of NSA, worked out an agenda with Bush, came in with a very long prepared statement which he submitted for the record, gave a 30-minute summary of his prepared statement, and then took the CCP budget section by section and justified it for the Committee. Bush was particularly happy that Admiral Inman used numbers that were in his CJB and charts that were also in the CJB and were therefore available to all the members.

25X1 4. Bush suggests that after an opening summary, the balance of the Agency agenda be items of special interest. These should include those programs or projects which account for a large part of the Agency budget, those which account for large parts of any increases requested, and those which are of interest to the Committee due to the nature of the function. As a starter, Bush suggests HUMINT - costs, problems, accomplishments; staff communications - costs, problems, [redacted]

[redacted] covert action - costs, problems, automatic data processing - costs, coordination with Community systems, reasons for increase, what the future looks like; research and development - what the Agency role is, how it differs from Defense, how the Agency supports Defense, costs, external versus internal, what is coming up in the future; personnel management - how the DDO cut is being handled, why the need for so many supergrades, what if anything can be done to hold down retirement costs; and how the ZBB process worked under the new Community budget system. This is not meant to be more than a list of suggestions. Bush intends to visit soon to help in any way he can to get an agenda developed. He expects we will have other subjects we will want to talk about. One last suggestion from Bush was to cover external analysis, both the budget and some explanation of what it is and why we do it.

5. Bush also made it clear that the Committee will want to know what the new Executive Order means to the Agency; and they are much interested in the relationship between the Agency and what they conceive as Intelligence Community functions.

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Office of Legislative Counsel

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